

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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Imagery analysis report

Maykop VLF Radio Communications Transmitter Station Under Construction, USSR (S)

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**IAR-0012/80
FEBRUARY 1980
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MAYKOP VLF RADIO COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTER STATION UNDER CONSTRUCTION, USSR (S)

1. (TSR) On [] a third-generation, Goliath-type, very-low-frequency (VLF) antenna was identified under construction 25 nautical miles (nm) northwest of Maykop, USSR, and 44 nm northeast of the Black Sea. When complete, Maykop VLF Radio Communications (Radcom) Transmitter Station ([] Figure 1) will be one of five tri-hexagonal VLF transmitters in the USSR and will provide a significant increase in the capability of the Soviets to communicate with surface and subsurface ships, particularly in the Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean regions.

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2. (TSR) The construction camp for the station was started in 1976, and the ground clearing for the central control area and antenna field began in 1977. As of August 1979, two guyed lattice masts were partially complete, the foundation for the central control building/bunker was under construction, and the sites for additional masts were being prepared.

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3. (TSR) The distance between masts is 925 meters, a 50-percent increase over the 600-meter separation of the second-generation tri-hexagonal VLF transmitters. The second-generation Goliath antenna is also 50-percent larger than the first.

4. (TSR) The first-generation tri-hexagonal VLF transmitter is Gorkiy VLF Radcom Transmitter Station Kudma ([]). The second-generation transmitters include Vileyka VLF Radcom Transmitter Station ([]) Rembuyevo VLF Radcom VLF Transmitter Station ([]) and Chaldovar VLF Radcom Station ([])

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